

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide as set forth in Figure 1.
  - (b) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide expressed by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. \_\_\_\_\_;
  - (c) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to and which is at least 70% identical to the polynucleotide of (a) or (b); and
  - (d) a polynucleotide fragment of the polynucleotide of (a), (b) or (c).
2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 encoding the polypeptide of Figure 1.
3. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide encodes a mature polypeptide encoded by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A vector containing the polynucleotide of Claim 1.
5. A host cell genetically engineered with the vector of Claim 4.
6. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising: expressing from the host cell of Claim 5 the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide.
7. A process for producing cells capable of expressing a polypeptide comprising genetically engineering cells with the vector of Claim 4.
8. A polypeptide selected from the group consisting of
  - (i) a polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of

Figure 1 and fragments, analogs and derivatives thereof; and (ii) a polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of ATCC Deposit No. \_\_\_\_\_ and fragments, analogs and derivatives of said polypeptide.

9. The polypeptide of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has the deduced amino acid sequence of Figure 1.
10. An antibody against the polypeptide of claim 8.
11. A compound which activates the polypeptide of claim 8.
12. A compound which inhibits activation of the polypeptide of claim 8.
13. A method for the treatment of a patient having need to activate a receptor comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 11.
14. A method for the treatment of a patient having need to inhibit a receptor comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 12.
15. The method of claim 13 wherein said compound is a polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of the compound is administered by providing to the patient DNA encoding said agonist and expressing said agonist *in vivo*.
16. The method of claim 14 wherein said compound is a polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of the compound is administered by providing to the patient DNA

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encoding said antagonist and expressing said antagonist in vivo.

17. A method for identifying a compound which bind to and activate the polypeptide of claim 8 comprising:

contacting a compound with cells expressing on the surface thereof the polypeptide of claim 8, said polypeptide being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound to said polypeptide said contacting being under conditions sufficient to permit binding of compounds to the polypeptide; and

identifying a compound capable of polypeptide binding by detecting the signal produced by said second component.

18. A method for identifying compounds which bind to and inhibit activation of the polypeptide of claim 8 comprising:

contacting an analytically detectable ligand known to bind to the receptor polypeptide and a compound with host cells expressing on the surface thereof the polypeptide of claim 8, said polypeptide being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound to said polypeptide under conditions to permit binding to the polypeptide; and

determining whether the ligand binds to the polypeptide by detecting the absence of a signal generated from the interaction of the ligand with the polypeptide.

19. A process for diagnosing in a patient a disease or a susceptibility to a disease related to an under-expression of the polypeptide of claim 8 comprising:

determining a mutation in the nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide, or the amount of the polypeptide in a sample derived from a patient.

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20. A diagnostic process comprising:  
analyzing for the presence of a soluble form of the  
polypeptide of claim 8 in a sample derived from a host.

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